

a⁶ 20. (Amended-Clean Copy) A method as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the bit pattern is generated from the features using a representation scheme.

a⁷ 24. (Amended-Clean Copy) Apparatus for performing the method of Claim 1.

a⁸ 26. (Amended-Clean Copy) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 including a biometrics capturing device.

REMARKS

By the above amendment, the claims have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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March 6, 2001
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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein the biometrics data comprises an image and the features are selected from normalized data corresponding to a portion of the image.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein the bit pattern is generated from the features using a representation scheme.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein the image is a fingerprint image and the features measures are of minutiae points.

9 (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1 wherein the image is a face image and the feature measures are of corners of the image.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein the associative memory is implemented using a neural network.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein, in step (5), a symmetry key or public/private key pair is generated.

14. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein steps (1) - (4) are applied to a plurality of biometrics data sources, the key being generated from a respective plurality of retrieved bit patterns.

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein a plurality of keys corresponding to a plurality of persons are generated and the corresponding bit patterns are stored in two or more parallel associative memories.

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17. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1 wherein step (1) is performed a plurality of times to provide a plurality of samples and only invariant feature measures persistent in all samples are used to generate the key.

20. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18 [or Claim 19] wherein the bit pattern is generated from the features using a representation scheme.

24. (Amended) Apparatus for performing the method of [any one of Claims 1-23] Claim 1.

26. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 [or 25] including a biometrics capturing device.

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